

EMBASSY OF HONDURAS
Washington, D.C.

No. 121

October 25, 1962

Sir:

In compliance with instructions from my government, I have the honor to inform you that the President of the Republic of Honduras issued a decree on October 18, 1962, prohibiting all merchant vessels flying the Honduran flag from putting in at Cuban ports and from carrying cargo or exercising any other commercial activity between the ports of Cuba and those of other countries.

The said Decree reads as follows:

"No. 1058.- Tegucigalpa, October 18, 1962. IN VIEW OF the grave danger to the countries of the Western Hemisphere represented by the penetration of the communist system into the Republic of Cuba and the ties of the government of that country with the countries of the Sino-Soviet bloc, which, having been declared incompatible with the principles and purposes of the inter-American system, have resulted in the exclusion of that country from the Organization of American States; CONSIDERING that the Government of Honduras, in conformance with the resolution adopted on April 24, 1961, decided to put an end to its diplomatic relations with the Government of Cuba, ordering the immediate withdrawal of its Diplomatic Representative and the cessation of all commercial activity with the aforementioned country; CONSIDERING that the intensive traffic in arms between the Republic of Cuba and the countries of the communist bloc constitutes a grave threat to the countries of the Western Hemisphere, inasmuch as communist tactics have as their main objective the promotion of subversive movements in the hemisphere with a view to transforming democratic institutions by violent means; and CONSIDERING that the countries that comprise the inter-American system are obliged to take all steps that may be necessary to preserve and defend their democratic institutions and the system of freedom of their peoples, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, by virtue of the power conferred upon him by Article 205.1 and 3 of the Constitution of the Republic, DECREES: 1. All merchant ships flying the Honduran flag are prohibited from putting in at Cuban ports and from carrying cargo or exercising any other commercial activity between the ports of Cuba and those of other countries. 2. The Consuls of Honduras accredited abroad shall abstain from legalizing documents of boats flying the flag of Honduras that are carrying cargo from Cuba or whose destination is a Cuban port. 3. The officers of the Military Zone and Customs Administrators shall likewise abstain

Dr. Alberto Zuleta Angel
Chairman of the Council of the
Organization of American States
Pan American Union
Washington, 6, D.C.

/...

from legalizing documents of ships traveling to or from Cuban ports. 4. The Ministry of Economics and Treasury, through the Merchant Marine Section, shall transmit the present Decree to the owners, captains or agents of ships flying the Honduran flag. 5. The officers of the Military Zone, Customs Administrators, Honduran Consuls and other public officials are ordered to comply strictly with the present Decree. 6. Those who violate these provisions shall be punished accordingly. 7. The present Decree shall enter into force as of the day on which it is dated. RAMON VILLEDA MORALES. The Secretary of State for Economics and Treasury, JORGE BUESO ARIAS."

This decree has been issued by the Government of Honduras in the exercise of its jurisdiction over ships of Honduran flag and registry, and because it is agreeable to an extension of the restrictions referred to in Resolution II of the Eighth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held at Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(s) Céleo Dávila
Ambassador
Representative of Honduras
on the Council of the CAS